



Toxicology Services

Overview

The Toxicology Services Section (TSS) is part of the RCMP's National Police Services (NPS). Operational sections are located in Halifax, Winnipeg and Vancouver with a satellite section in Edmonton.

Our Value:

- Concerned with the detection of drugs and/or poisons, including alcohol
- Interpretation of the findings in terms of physiological and behavioral effects in a legal investigation
- Training, technical and scientific support to impaired driving investigations

Our Goals:

- Assist in establishing a true cause of death
- Provide a basis for intoxicated behaviour
- Provide a clue of clinical history when the subject is unable or unwilling to do so
- Assist in establishing the truth of statement, e.g.: *"I was high and don't remember anything"*.
- To support breath test programs for all NPS partners

Our Services:

- analytical casework
- independent opinion
- expert testimony
- training - e.g. Alcohol Breath Testing Program, Drug Recognition Expert Program, etc.

Our Cases:

- homicide, manslaughter, suspected homicide, attempted homicide
- assault (e.g. aggravated, bodily harm, sexual assault, child abuse, etc.).
- assistance to other agencies where there is a threat to life (e.g. hospital emergencies, military, jails).
- impaired driving
- interpretive cases related to criminal charges (Opinion Letters)
- possession of, or administering, a noxious substance (e.g. tear gas).
- other criminal cases under police investigation (e.g. poisoning, anti-terrorism investigations involving chemical, biological, radioactive/nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) related materials).

Quick Facts

The Most Common Drugs Identified:

- Alcohol
- Cannabis & Metabolites
- Diazepam
- Cocaine
- Codeine
- Diphenhydramine
- methamphetamine/ amphetamine

The Most Common Exhibits Analyzed

- body fluids, such as blood and urine
- items from a criminal scene:
 - drug paraphernalia
 - foods, feeds
 - capsules, tablets
 - tear gas canisters
 - residues from drinking glasses
 - unknowns

Training Support

- 40 - 50 breath test courses / year
- 800 - 1000 police officers trained